

Free the Atmore-Holman Brothers

Stop the racist repression

DEATH LIST

On March 4, 1974 a trustee at Holman Maximum Security Prison came across a handwritten list of names of inmates of the Alabama prison system. Almost all of the 23 prisoners named were members of the IFA. The list made it clear that the prison officials wanted the named prisoners killed and would take no action against any prison guards who participated in such a process.

At the head of the list was George (Chagina) Dobbins, the Chairman of the IFA, who had been murdered by Alabama officials in the aftermath of the January, 1974 rebellion at Atmore Prison Farm.

Among the other names on the list were Tommy (Yukeena) Dotson and Willie Joe Menefee. Dotson was able to obtain the list and smuggle it out of Holman Prison. There was an urgency as he presented the list; "I might be next," he said. And he was. On March 13, Dotson was beaten to death by five guards at Holman Prison. Three days later the Mobile Register reported that Willie Joe Menefee had been stabbed to death at Atmore Prison.

When the existence of the death list got coverage in the *Mobile Register*, Commissioner L.B. Sullivan's response to questions about it was "no comment." But there must be a comment, especially since 7 of the 9 Atmore-Holman Brothers facing trial are on that list.

The Alabama prison officials are working their way down the "death list" systematically eliminating every prisoner who will speak out against the barbaric conditions of the Alabama prison system. The frameup cases of the Atmore-Holman Brothers, nine Black men who have spoken out in just such a manner, is another brutal act in the implementation of the death list.

THIS IS A PEOPLE'S CASE— IT NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

The state plans to put the brothers, who are the victims of violence and inhuman conditions inside the prisons, on trial as the villains. If the state wins, the wardens and guards will know that

they can keep on working their way down the death list and no one will ever prosecute them. They will also know that they can safely use death as a method of discipline against any prisoners who buck the brutal system that exists, who support programs like the IFA's for basic human rights. If these methods of maintaining order at any price are allowed to succeed inside the prisons, then they will be used outside too. This is why the Atmore-Holman brothers defense—like other cases such as Attica—is not for them alone, not even for prisoners alone. Their defense is for the people also.

PEOPLE MOVE TO DEFEND THE IFA

People throughout Alabama, the South and the country have responded to the call by the brothers for support. Prisoners' relatives have organized into support groups called Families for Action in both Mobile and Birmingham. Former prisoners and IFA members have been instrumental in organizing defense efforts on behalf of the brothers on the inside. And others: workers, students, teachers, welfare rights, tenant rights, and union activists have organized defense committees to support the IFA's demands and fight to free the Atmore-Holman Brothers.

Also a legal committee has been organized, bringing together lawyers from all over the South to represent the Brothers. In addition, offensive legal action is being planned against prison

and state officials for repression and violence against IFA members.

The supporters of the Atmore-Holman brothers are now working to mobilize national support for the case and to bring people to the trials in Brewton in February.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

1) Money is desperately needed to help the families of the Atmore-Holman brothers, most of whom are from Birmingham, to get to Atmore regularly, since only they and the lawyers can see the Brothers. In addition there are dozens of important daily expenses, court costs, and rental buses to get people to the trials. This is a people's trial and only the presence of the people will force any justice into the courtroom.

2) It is crucial to show that the Brothers have broad and national support. You or your group can help by sponsoring the Defense Committee and publicizing the case and by distributing the newsletter and buttons.

3) You can also write to L.B. Sullivan, Commissioner of the Alabama Board of Corrections, 101 South Union Street, Montgomery, Alabama and Gov. George Wallace, State Capitol, Montgomery, Alabama



Last picture taken of Tommy Dotson alive.

Dotson savagely mutilated.

and protest these trials and false charges.

4) Finally, send some letters to the Brothers. They are locked in isolation cells where it's hard for them to hear the voice of the people in their support. The mailing address for Anthony Paradise, Johnny Harris, Lincoln Heard, Grover McCorvey, and Charles Beasley is Rt. 2 Box 38 Atmore, Alabama 36502. For Edward Ellis, Jessie James Clanzy, and Oscar Johnson, write Rt. 5, Box 125, Montgomery, Alabama 36109. For Frank X. Moore, write Escambia County Jail, Brewton, Alabama.

TRIAL IN BREWTON ON
FEB. 10th

Be there!

